The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday June* 11. to *Tueſday June* 14. 1709.

White's Chocolate-houſe, June 13.

I HAD ſuſpended the Buſineſs of Duelling to a diſtant Time, but that I am called upon to declare my ſelf on a Point propoſed in the following Letter.

SIR, June 9. at Night.

I Deſire the Favour of you to decide this Queſtion, Whether calling a Gentleman a Smart Fellow *is an Affront or not? A Youth entring a certain Coffee-houſe, with his Cane tied at his Button, wearing red-heeled Shoes, I thought of your Deſcription, and could not forbear telling a Friend of mine next to me, There enters a Smart Fellow. The Gentleman hearing it, had immediately a Mind to pick a Quarrel with me, and deſired Satisfaction: At which I was more puzzled than at the other, remembring what Mention your Familiar makes of thoſe that had loſt their Lives on ſuch Occaſions. The Thing is refer'd to your Judgment, and I expect you to be my Second, ſince you have been the Cauſe of our Quarrel. I am,*

SIR,

Your Friend and humble Servant.

I abſolutely pronounce, that there is no Occaſion of Offence given in this Expreſſion; for a *Smart Fellow* is always an Appellation of Praiſe, and is a Man of double Capacity. The true Caſt or Mould in which you may be ſure to know him is, when his Livelihood or Education is in the Civil Liſt, and you ſee him expreſs a Vivacity or Mettle above the Way he is in by a little Jerk in his Motion, ſhort Trip in his Steps, well-fancied Lining of his Coat, or any other Indications which may be given in a vigorous Dreſs. Now, What poſſible Inſinuation can there be, that 'tis a Cauſe of Quarrel for a Man to ſay, he allows a Gentleman really to be, what he, his Taylor, his Hoſier and his Milliner, have conſpired to make him? I confeſs, if this Perſon who appeals to me had ſaid, He was *not* a *Smart Fellow*, there had been Cauſe for Reſentment; but if he ſtands to it that he is one, he leaves no Manner of Ground for a Miſunderſtanding. But indeed it is a moſt lamentable Thing, that there ſhould be a Diſpute raiſed upon a Man's ſaying another is, what he plainly takes Pains to be thought. But this Point cannot be ſo well adjuſted, as by enquiring what are the Sentiments of wiſe Nations and Communities of the Uſe of the Sword, and from thence conclude, Whether it is honourable to draw it ſo frequently or not? An illuſtrious Commonwealth of *Italy* has preſerved it ſelf for many Ages, without letting one of their Subjects handle this deſtructive Inſtrument, always leaving that Work to ſuch of Mankind as underſtand the Uſe of a whole Skin ſo little, as to make a Profeſſion of expoſing it to Cuts and Scars. But what need we run to ſuch foreign Inſtances: Our own Ancient and Well-governed Cities are conſpicuous Examples to all Mankind in their Regulation of Military Atchievements. The chief Citizens, like the noble *Italians*, hire Mercenaries to carry Arms in their ſtead; and you ſhall have a Fellow of a deſperate Fortune, for the Gain of one Half Crown, go through all the Dangers of *Tuttle-Fields* or the *Artillery-Ground*, clap his Right Jaw within Two Inches of the Touch-hole of a Muſquet, fire it off, and Huzza, with as little Concern as he tears a Pullet. Thus you ſee, to what Scorn of Danger theſe Mercenaries arrive, out of a meer Love of ſordid Gain: But methinks it ſhould take off the ſtrong Prepoſſeſſion Men have in Favour of bold Actions, when they ſee upon what low Motives Men aſpire to 'em. Do but obſerve the common Practice in the Government of thoſe Heroick Bodies, our Militia and Lieutenancies, the moſt Ancient Corps of Soldiers perhaps in the Univerſe. I queſtion, Whether there is one Inſtance of an Animoſity between any Two of theſe illuſtrious Sons of *Mars* ſince their Inſtitution which was decided by Combat? I remember indeed to have read in the Chronicle, of an Accident which had like to have occaſion'd Bloodſhed in the very Field before all the General Officers, tho' moſt of them were Juſtices of the Peace: Captain *Crabtree* of *Birching-Lane*, Haberdaſher, had drawn a Bill upon Major-General *Maggot*, Cheeſemonger in *Thames-ſtreet*. *Crabtree* draws this upon Mr. *William Maggot* and *Company*. A Country Lad receiv'd this Bill, and not underſtanding the Word *Company*, us'd in drawing Bills on Men in Partnerſhip; carried it to Mr. *Jeffrey Stitch* of *Crooked-Lane*, (Lieutenant of the Major-General's Company) whom he had the Day before ſeen march by their Door in all the Pomp of his Commiſſion. The Lieutenant accepts it, for the Honour of the Company, ſince it had come to him. But Repayment being ask'd from the Major-General, he abſolutely refuſes. Upon this, the Lieutenant thinks of nothing leſs than to bring this to a Rupture, and takes for his Second *Tobias Armſtrong* of the *Counter*, and ſends him with a Challenge in a Scrip of Parchment, wherein was written, *Stitch contra Maggot*, and all the Fury vaniſh'd in a Moment. The Major-General gives Satisfaction to the Second, and all was well. Hence it is, that the bold Spirits of our City are kept in ſuch Subjection to the Civil Power. Otherwiſe, Where would our Liberties ſoon be? If Wealth and Valour were ſuffer'd to exert themſelves with their utmoſt Force: If ſuch Officers as are employ'd in the terrible Bands above-mention'd, were to draw Bills as well as Swords. Theſe dangerous Captains, who could victual an Army as well as lead it, would be too powerful for the State. But the Point of Honour juſtly gives Way to that of Gain; and by long and wiſe Regulation, the richeſt is the braveſt Man. I have known a Captain riſe to a Colonel in Two Days by the Fall of Stocks; and a Major, my good Friend, near the *Monument*, aſcended to that Honour by the Fall of the Price of Spirits, and the Riſing of right *Nantz*. By this true Senſe of Honour, that Body of Warriors are ever in good Order and Diſcipline, with their Colours and Coats all whole: As in other Battalions (where their Principles of Action are leſs ſolid) you ſee the Men of Service look like Spectres, with long Sides, and lank Cheeks. In this Army, you may meaſure a Man's

a Man's Services by his Waſt, and the moſt prominent Belly is certainly the Man who has been moſt upon Action. Beſides all this, there is another excellent Remark to be made in the Diſcipline of theſe Troops. It being of abſolute Neceſſity that the People of *England* ſhould ſee what they have for their Money, and be Eye-witneſſes of the Advantage they gain by it, all Battles which are fought abroad are repreſented here. But ſince one Side muſt be beaten, and the other conquer, which might create Diſputes, the eldeſt Company is always to make the other run, and the younger retreats, according as to the laſt News and beſt Intelligence. I have my ſelf ſeen Prince *Eugene* make *Catinat* fly from the Back-ſide of *Grays-Inn Lane* to *Hockley in the Hole*, and not give over the Purſuit, 'till obliged to leave the *Bear-Garden* on the Right, to avoid being born down by Fencers, Wild Bulls, and Monſters, too terrible for the Encounter of any Heroes, but ſuch whoſe Lives are their Livelihood.

We have here ſeen, that wiſe Nations do not admit of Fighting, even in the Defence of their Country, as a laudable Action; and they live within the Walls of our own City in great Honour and Reputation without it. It would be very neceſſary to underſtand, by what Force of the Climate, Food, Education or Employment, one Man's Senſe is brought to differ ſo eſſentially from that of another; that one is ridiculous and contemptible for forbearing a Thing which makes for his Safety; and another, applauded for conſulting his Ruin and Deſtruction.

It will therefore be neceſſary for us, to ſhow our Travelling, to examine this Subject fully, and tell you how it comes to paſs, That a Man of Honour in *Spain*, tho' you offend him never ſo gallantly, ſtabs you baſely; in *England*, tho' you offend never ſo baſely, challenges fairly: The former kills you out of Revenge; the latter out of good Breeding. But to probe the Heart of Man in this Particular to its utmoſt Thoughts and Receſſes, I muſt wait for the Return of *Pacolet*, who is now attending a Gentleman lately in a Duel, and ſometimes viſits him, by whoſe Hand he received his Wounds.

St. *James's Coffee-houſe*, *June* 13.

Letters from *Vienna* of the 8th Inſtant ſay, there has been a Journal of the Marches and Actions of the King of *Sweden*, from the Beginning of *January* to the 11th of *April*, *N. S.* communicated by the *Swediſh* Miniſters to that Court. Theſe Advices inform, That his *Swediſh* Majeſty enter'd the Territories of *Muſcovy* in *February* laſt with the main Body of his Army, in order to oblige the Enemy to a general Engagement; but that the *Muſcovites* declining a Battle, and an univerſal Thaw having rendred the Rivers unpaſſable, the King return'd into *Ukrania*. There are mention'd ſeveral Rencounters between conſiderable Detachments of the *Swediſh* and *Ruſſian* Armies. Marſhal *Heiſter* intended to take his Leave of the Court on the Day after the Date of theſe Letters, and put himſelf at the Head of the Army in *Hungary*. The Malecontents had attempted to ſend in a Supply of Proviſions into *Newhenſel*; but their Deſign was diſappointed by the *Germans*.

Advices from *Berlin* of the 15th Inſtant, *N. S.* ſay, That his *Daniſh* Majeſty having receiv'd an Invitation from the King of *Pruſſia* to an Interview, deſign'd to come to *Potſdam* within few Days; and that King *Auguſtus* reſolved to accompany him thither. To avoid all Difficulties in Ceremony, the Three Kings, and all the Company who ſhall have the Honour to ſit with them at Table, are to draw Lots, and take Precedence accordingly.

They write from *Hamburgh* of the 18th Inſtant, *N. S.* That ſome particular Letters from *Dantzick* ſpeak of a late Action between the *Swedes* and *Muſcovites* near *Jaroſlaw*; but that Engagement being mentioned from no other Place, there is not much Credit given to this Intelligence.

We hear from *Bruſſels*, by Letters dated the 20th: That on the 14th in the Evening the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* arriv'd at *Courtray*, with a Deſign to proceed the Day following to *Liſle*, in the Neighbourhood of which City the Confederate Army was to arrive the ſame Day. Advices from *Paris* inform us, That the Marſhal *de Bezons* is appointed to command in *Dauphine*; and that the Duke of *Berwick* is ſet out for *Spain*, with a Deſign to follow the Fortunes of the Duke of *Anjou*, in caſe the *French* King ſhould comply with the late Demands of the Allies.

The Court of *France* has ſent a Circular Letter to all the Governors of the Provinces, to recommend to their Conſideration his Majeſty's late Conduct in the Affair of Peace. It is thought fit in that Epiſtle, to condeſcend to a certain Appeal to the People, Whether it is conſiſtent with the Dignity of the Crown, or the *French* Name, to ſubmit to the Preliminaries demanded by the Confederates? That Letter dwells upon the Unreaſonableneſs of the Allies, in requiring, that his Majeſty ſhould aſſiſt in dethroning his Grandſon, and treats this Particular in Language more ſuitable to it, as it is a Topick of Oratory, than a real Circumſtance, on which the Intereſts of Nations, and Reaſons of State, which affect all *Europe*, are concern'd.

The Cloſe of this Memorial ſeems to prepare the People to expect all Events, attributing the Confidence of the Enemy to the Goodneſs of their Troops; but acknowledging, that his ſole Dependance is upon the Intervention of Providence.

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